



9-20-4

RKR  
JLW

PTO/SB/30 (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

<b>Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal</b>  Address to: MS RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	<b>Application Number</b>	<b>09/896,367</b>
	<b>Filing Date</b>	<b>June 28, 2001</b>
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	<b>Ralph J. KNOTTS</b>
	<b>Art Unit</b>	<b>2834</b>
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	<b>J. A. Aguirrechea</b>
	<b>Attorney Docket No.</b>	<b>146712006000</b>

**This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.**

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_

ii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☒ **Enclosed**

i. ☐ Amendment/Reply

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iv. ☒ Other **Preliminary Amendment - 10 pgs**

2. **Miscellaneous**

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. **03-1952**

i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) (\$770.00)

ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17) (2 mos. /\$420.00)

iii. ☒ Other **Return Receipt Postcard**

b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

09/21/2004 JADDO1 00000015 031952 09896367

01 FC:1801 770.00 DA

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED			
Name (Print/Type)	<b>Timothy A. Worrall</b>	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	<b>54,552</b>
Signature		Date	<b>September 16, 2004</b>

I hereby certify I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Airbill No. EV 381 798 232 US in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, MAIL STOP: RCE, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.	
Dated: <b>September 16, 2004</b>	Signature:  (Lillia Olsen)

sf-1782017

EV381798232US

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. **EV 381 798 232 US**, in an envelope addressed to: **MS RCE**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: **September 16, 2004**

Signature:

(LILIA OLSEN)

(PATENT)  
Docket No. 146712006000



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

Ralph J. KNOTTS et al.

Application No.: 09/896,367

Group Art Unit: 2834

Filed June 28, 2001

Examiner: J. A. Aguirrechea

For: **APPARATUS FOR REDUCING SPINDLE  
MOTOR MAGNETIC DRAG**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**MAIL STOP: RCE**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. BOX 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This is in response to the final Office Action dated April 16, 2004, for which a response was due on June 16, 2004, and the Advisory Action dated June 30, 2004. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a 2 month(s) extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to **September 16, 2004**. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. The response accompanies a Request for Continued Examination under 35 C.F.R. § 1.114.

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Listing of the Claims** begins on page 3 of this paper. There are no amendments to the claims.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.